



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **State Board of Education Statement Reaffirming Michigan Merit Curriculum and Common Core State Standards**

The State Board of Education and the Department of Education agree with the Governor and the Legislature that our children and the State's public education system hold the keys for Michigan's future.

We recognize in these changing times that students are most likely to succeed if they are well-prepared for lifelong learning and necessary career changes as opportunities arise. None of this will happen for our students without consistency, stability, and rigor for our educational system.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum allows students to build skills and competencies in a variety of contexts, including rigorous career-technical programs. It is essential to retain world language instruction that we encourage be taught in elementary and middle school. As for modifying the requirement for Algebra II, the Legislature has previously allowed modifications. No more are needed now.

The results of the Michigan Merit Curriculum are evident in continuous improvement in student outcomes. This year, the statewide graduation rates increased by 1.9% and students continue to show improvement on the Michigan Merit Examination, with overall composite scores for Michigan high school juniors on the ACT college-entrance exam increasing four years in a row. Recently released fall 2012 MEAP results show student gains for reading, mathematics and writing in all grades and most demographic groups.

The Common Core State Standards create consistent, clear expectations in reading, writing, speaking, listening, language and mathematics. They are robust and relevant to the real world, creating realistic and practical expectations that reflect the knowledge and skills needed to enter credit-bearing entry courses for two- and four-year college programs or the workforce.

As such, the State Board of Education re-affirms its belief in the rigorous standards defined in the Michigan Merit Curriculum and the Common Core State Standards. Michigan is headed in the right direction. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on Michigan's strong curriculum.

Approved March 12, 2013

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • (517) 373-3324